

## Organizing Director Sylvia L. Lovely

---

Sylvia Lovely has been actively involved with the well-being of Kentucky cities and the growth of our residents since 1988, when she started as a staff attorney with the Kentucky League of Cities (KLC), a membership organization of more than 370 cities committed to the success and security of our Kentucky communities. Since 1990, she has been executive director and CEO of KLC.

Sylvia is no stranger to combating the persistent problem of drug control. She was an appointed member of the Statewide Drug Control Assessment Summit, actively participating in Summit meetings and at regional public input meetings held across the state, at which she often was a panel chair or co-chair.

Governor Ernie Fletcher selected Sylvia as the interim executive director of Kentucky's new Office of Drug Control Policy for many reasons, but particularly because of her institutional knowledge of state and local government and her recognized leadership, skills and experience in bridging issues among various groups.

Sylvia believes in the power of people, no matter who they are or where they live. She inspires others with this simple but powerful message: Ideas that transform the world can begin locally with people who care.

Her passion for civic engagement has led to numerous awards and recognitions. She was named one of Kentucky's Powerful Elite, one of Kentucky's Movers and Shakers, one of Kentucky's Top Women of Influence, and Appalachian Woman of the Year.

Sylvia is president of the NewCities Foundation, a national nonprofit organization that encourages citizens to get involved in helping their communities thrive in the rapid technological change and global challenges of the 21st century.

She participated in the Wye River Retreat, hosted by the MacNeil/Lehrer Group. Developed in the aftermath of 9/11, it brought together 60 national visionaries to discuss the goal of increasing citizen engagement in national and foreign policy issues. She was a keynote speaker in the Dominican Republic at an international conference of women leaders.

Sylvia currently serves on several boards and commissions, including Kentuckians for Better Transportation, Kentucky Habitat for Humanity, Leadership Kentucky, Morehead State University Board of Regents, and the Governor's Commission on Family Farms.

A regular contributor to a number of newspapers and publications and a featured commentator on various TV and radio programs, Sylvia recently appeared on the "Lou Dobbs Tonight" show on CNN, offering solutions to increase voter participation. She is publisher of *City* magazine, a quarterly community issues publication that has statewide distribution in Kentucky, and host of "City Voice," a public affairs TV program produced by the NewCities Foundation.

Sylvia jokes about how she was born in city hall - but she's only half kidding. The small hospital in the Appalachian hills of Kentucky where she was born was transformed years later into the city hall of Frenchburg, her hometown.

Nobody is better suited to have such a symbolic birthplace. Sylvia has risen from humble beginnings to become a nationally recognized champion of cities and the power of people to create positive change at the grassroots level.

In her writings, Sylvia has noted how her upbringing fueled her drive to improve her life and community. Her parents left Frenchburg early on for Dayton, Ohio –part of the migration of the poor and uneducated from the rural South who transplanted themselves to the industrialized cities of the North.

Her passion for civic engagement began long before she graduated from law school. Sylvia now speaks across the country, encouraging citizens to take similar action in building the kind of world and future they seek.

Sylvia is a graduate of Morehead State University, where she is a member of the board of regents. She graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law and is an adjunct faculty member of the UK Martin School of Public Policy and Administration.

She and her husband Bernie live in Lexington, Kentucky. They have been married for 31 years and have two sons, Ross and David.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **KENTUCKY LEAGUE OF CITIES LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

January 1988 – Present

#### **Executive Director/CEO**

October 1990 – Present

Appointed by the Kentucky League of Cities board of directors to the position of executive director. Responsibilities include overseeing a staff of 70 professionals, headquartered in Lexington, who work to provide services vital to city government, including bond, investment and insurance pooling; advocacy at the state and federal levels; legal assistance; an annual convention; a monthly publication, *KLC Direct*; training and educational seminars; and information technology services. She also serves as president of the NewCities Foundation, a newly formed educational foundation of the league, and as publisher of *City* magazine, a quarterly community issues publication that has statewide distribution.

#### **NewCities Foundation President**

2001 - Present

President of a separate 501(c)(3) organization devoted to citizenship issues and the role of citizens in community building. Responsibilities include working with a small staff to build the foundation into one with a national mission, and one that is separate from the Kentucky League of Cities and its lobbying mission. Developed 12 principles of community building and civic engagement to form the foundation of educating citizens. Has numerous public speaking appearances and does extensive writing about the importance of civic engagement.

#### **Director of Intergovernmental Services**

January 1988 – October 1990

Principal responsibilities were managing several intergovernmental service programs, legislative lobbying, and legal assistance to city officials. Duties included: administration of \$170 million bond program; principal organization and ongoing legal counsel services for the Kentucky League of Cities Investment Pool Plus; supervision of the assistant director of intergovernmental services, administrative assistant for intergovernmental services, and manager of Information Central; direct responsibility for Capital Finance Services board of trustees and Investment Pool Plus board of trustees; contributing to the league's monthly publication, *City* magazine.

### **UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY MARTIN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

July 2002 – Present

#### **Adjunct Professor**

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY**  
**CHANDLER MEDICAL CENTER**  
**LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

March 1986 - January 1988

**Staff Officer**

New position created by the chancellor of the medical center to assist in creation of university/industrial partnerships for pursuance of academic excellence and additional funding sources for scientific research. This position required independent and creative thought that led to the implementation of new initiatives. Specific duties included: development work on creation of university research parks such as Coldstream; forging of liaisons with state Economic Development Cabinet on behalf of the College of Pharmacy; and research into development of small laboratory incubator facilities.

**FAYETTE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**CENTRAL KENTUCKY LEGAL SERVICES**  
**LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

October 1984 – March 1986

**Director, Fayette County Bar Association Pro Bono Program**

Organized and implemented a system to provide civil legal services to the poor by volunteer attorneys, which today is a thriving program known as Law Care of Lexington. Duties as the first director of the program included: recruitment and supervision of more than 200 volunteer attorneys; direct accountability to the Fayette County Bar Association pro bono board of trustees composed of practicing attorneys; maintenance and supervision of an independent office and staff; preparation of a budget funded in part by contributions; and planning and implementation of fund raising activities.

**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY**

September 1981 – October 1984

**Assistant Attorney General**

Served as an advocate for consumer issues in the utility rate intervention unit of the Consumer Protection Division. Specific duties included: representing consumers in hearings before the Public Service Commission and during appeals in both state and federal courts; principal responsibility for cases involving Kentucky-American Water Company, Kentucky Power, and South Central Bell; and preparation of opinions of the attorney general as required.

**UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF LAW**  
**LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

Fall 1983 – Spring 1988

**Adjunct Professor**

Team-taught “legal writing and analysis” with Bernard Lovely to first year law students. Specific duties included: conducting weekly class meetings throughout the fall and winter; grading and reviewing briefs for the development of persuasive writing techniques; and conducting mock appellate court sessions for development of persuasive argument techniques.

**PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE**  
**LAKE WALES, FLORIDA**  
**LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY**

Summer 1979 – Spring 1981

**Attorney**

Private practice primarily in the areas of domestic relations and estate and tax law.

## **EDUCATION**

- ◆ University of Kentucky College of Law, J.D., 1976-1979. Graduated in the upper 15 percent of class.
- ◆ University of Kentucky Department of Sociology, 1974-1976. Variety of course work toward M.A.
- ◆ Morehead State University, B.A., 1973. Majored in English, minored in music.
- ◆ Tecumseh High School, Midway, Ohio, graduated 1969.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- ◆ Kentucky Bar Association
- ◆ Florida Bar Association
- ◆ *Kentucky Law Journal* Alumni Association
- ◆ American Society of Association Executives
- ◆ Morehead State University Alumni Association
- ◆ University of Kentucky Alumni Association

## **OTHER**

- ◆ Frequent presenter at state and national events
- ◆ Contributing columnist
- ◆ Writer for *The Lane Report*
- ◆ Radio commentator

## **HONORS**

- ◆ Member of 1988 class of Leadership Lexington
- ◆ Member of *Kentucky Law Journal* staff in University of Kentucky College of Law (reserved for students in the upper 20 percent of class)
- ◆ Member of Cardinal Key Honor Society, Morehead State University
- ◆ Secretary of Sigma Alpha Iota Honorary Fraternity of Music, Morehead State University
- ◆ *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*
- ◆ Member of 1993 class of Leadership Kentucky
- ◆ Morehead State University Hall of Fame
- ◆ 2000 Appalachian Woman of the Year, Morehead State University
- ◆ Named *Kentucky Monthly* 2001 Top Twelve Women of Influence
- ◆ Named *The Lane Report* Kentucky's Powerful Elite List
- ◆ Named *Kentucky Monthly* 2002 Kentucky Movers and Shakers
- ◆ 2001 Tecumseh High School Hall of Honor
- ◆ 2003 Women's Circle Award, National Association of Women Business Owners, Lexington Chapter
- ◆ 2004 Public Individual Award, East Kentucky Leadership Foundation
- ◆ The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Morehead State University

## **SIGNIFICANT PAST ACTIVITIES**

- ◆ Bluegrass Area Development District, board of directors
- ◆ Lexington Arts Group – Chair and developer of concept of program entitled “Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts”
- ◆ New Century Lexington Steering Committee
- ◆ SEEK (Supporting Emerging Enterprises in Kentucky) – along with two others, started this group to support high technology and economic development in Kentucky
- ◆ Kentucky Development Committee – treasurer during 1988-1989 of organization whose mission was development in rural Kentucky
- ◆ Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Tax Structure Committee
- ◆ Member of Kentucky Tax Commission  
(appointed by Governor Jones and chair of Simplicity Subcommittee)
- ◆ Kentucky Health Purchasing Alliance, chairman  
(appointed by Governor Jones as a result of HB 250 in the 1994 General Assembly Session)

## **CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

- ◆ Central Bank advisory board
- ◆ Downtown Lexington Corporation board of directors
- ◆ Fannie Mae Kentucky Partnership Advisory Council
- ◆ Governor's Commission on Family Farms
- ◆ Health Kentucky, Inc., board of directors
- ◆ Inter-Alumni council member
- ◆ Kentuckians for Better Transportation, former chair
- ◆ Kentucky Drug Summit Initiative member, Office of the Lt. Governor
- ◆ Kentucky Habitat for Humanity state board
- ◆ Kids Chance of Kentucky board of directors
- ◆ Leadership Kentucky board of directors
- ◆ Lexington Arts & Cultural Council 2004 Campaign for the Arts Cabinet, vice-chair
- ◆ Mayor's Water Authority Task Force, Lexington
- ◆ Morehead State University board of regents
- ◆ National League of Cities Democratic Governance panel member
- ◆ National League of Cities Homeland Security working group
- ◆ National League of Cities International Task Force
- ◆ National League of Cities Municipalities in Transition panel
- ◆ Partners for Kentucky's Future (education grassroots group)
- ◆ Renaissance Kentucky Alliance board of directors
- ◆ Southern Municipal Conference board of directors
- ◆ University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration Board of Visitors, chair
- ◆ Wilderness Road Girl Scouts nominating committee
- ◆ University of Kentucky College of Public Health external advisory committee